

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

16 November 1981

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Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

**for QUESTION TIME
on 16 and 18 November 1981**

1. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-495/81) (x)

Subject: Use of fruit and vegetables withdrawn from the market

It is frequently alleged in public that EEC funds are being used to destroy foodstuffs in the Community. It is said that regular use is being made for this purpose of appropriations intended for the support of Mediterranean products. Accusations of this kind are likely to harm the Community's image. There is therefore a particular need to make known the true facts.

1. Which fruit and vegetable products receive Community support?
 2. What justification is there for these support measures?
 3. What form does the support for individual products take?
 4. What proportion of the total production in these sectors receives Community support?
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5. Are all available transport, sales and distribution possibilities being used to dispose of surpluses in specific sectors and regions of the Community or are transport costs and other difficulties unacceptably great in relation to sales revenues?
 6. What has been done up to now with the quantities withdrawn from the market under the support arrangements?
 7. Is there any possibility of using the products withdrawn from the market as food aid in the areas hit by serious food shortages?
 8. How much has the Commission spent to date on destroying products in this sector?
 9. What is the relationship between the intervention price and production costs, and to what extent is this price designed to alleviate social hardship, particularly in those areas where existing production structures can be changed only in the longer term?
 10. Is the necessary restructuring being carried out in the Mediterranean area or is investment still being made to strengthen existing structures and increase production?

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-39/81), converted into a question for Question Time

2. Question by Mr GOMBE (H-355/81)

Subject: Dangers of receptacles for domestic use

As there are no European laws on the dangers to human health posed by cooking receptacles made of enamelled ceramic materials or by any crockery normally used in households regardless of its composition, and as certain countries such as the USA already have rules in this field, could the Commission put forward relevant proposals for a directive, a move which would also make it easier to export to countries with such legislation?

3. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-410/81)

Subject: Organization of the market in fruit and vegetables

Is it not true to say that this summer experience has once more proved us to be right in constantly urging that present rules be amended in order to provide improved guarantees concerning the income of fruit and vegetable growers?

4. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-414/81)

Subject: Effects of fluctuations in the dollar on the European economy

Could the Commission - which has taken no action but may have some ideas - please indicate whether, in its opinion, the rise in the value of the dollar has had a favourable or an adverse effect on the European economy and whether it has undertaken any studies to assess its impact?

5. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-418/81)

Subject : Financial support for the proposed North Sea gas-gathering pipeline

What proposals could the Community make to secure early development of such a scheme which would have a beneficial effect on the development of the Community's indigenous energy resources?

6. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-419/81)

Subject: Channel tunnel

In view of the fact that the heads of the French and British Governments have decided in principle to re-examine the project for a Channel tunnel, does the Commission not see a special role for itself in producing initiatives to ensure that this project will not be carried out exclusively by or on behalf of the governments of the two coastal states, but will be placed in a Community context which includes financing?

7. Question by Ms CLWYD (H-452/81)

Subject: Stockpile of sugar

Would the Commission agree that its plan to stockpile 2 million tonnes of sugar will create yet another controversial food "mountain"; that at best the plan is a palliative, that in the long run it will prove self-defeating and that it will add yet another commodity, to the indispensable list of unsold and often unsaleable stocks of produce supported by the CAP?

8. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-291/81)

Subject : Allocation of aid from the ERDF in the UK

In view of the fact that the Prime Minister of the U.K. denied in a written parliamentary reply in the UK House of Commons on 26.3.81 the claim by the Commission, contained in reply to my oral question (H-787/80) (1), that the UK Government had failed to supply all necessary information to enable the Commission to evaluate the allocation of aid from the ERDF in the budget of the UK, as requested in a letter from the Commission on 23.2.1979, will the Commission now make a further statement on this matter and in particular, will the Commission comment on the claim of the Prime Minister of the UK that the required information was given in 1980?

9. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-303/81)

Subject : Currency regulations

Is the Commission aware that visitors to France have to pay heavy fines if they fail to declare foreign currency, although they are given no indication that currency must be declared at the border? Can the Commission confirm that customs officers are not really equipped to cope with currency declarations and that, when currency is declared, there are correspondingly long delays at the border? Does the Commission agree, furthermore, that the application of these currency regulations infringes both the letter and the spirit of the Rome Treaties?

10. Question by Miss QUIN (H-312/81)

Subject : EEC measures governing the disposal of toxic and dangerous wastes

Which Member States have now forwarded to the Commission their reports on the situation in their countries regarding the measures governing the disposal of toxic and dangerous waste?

(1) Debates 268

11. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-527/81) (x)

Subject : Procurement contracts in Italy for
reconstruction in the earthquake zone

Can the Commission confirm to Parliament that the agents of the Italian government are awarding housing and equipment contracts for the reconstruction of towns and villages damaged in the recent earthquake on an equitable basis, without discriminating against companies from other Member States ?

12. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-395/81)

Subject : Commission's report on bathing water quality

In reply to written Question No 612/80 (1) the Commission stated that it had received reports on bathing water from all the Member States in accordance with Directive 76/160/EEC by June 1980. The Commission said that it would compile its own report for the Community as a whole and would submit it to the Member States for checking before it is published. The Commission hoped to publish the report in the last quarter of 1980.

Will the Commission please now explain the delay in publishing its report, and will it please state when the report can now be expected?

(1) OJ No C 239/14 of 17 September 1980, p. 14

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-22/81), converted into a question for Question Time

13. Question by Mr DE FERRANTI (H-398/81)

Subject: Transport and trading efficiencies

Could the Commission estimate the likely savings to Community consumers resulting from the improvement in transport and trading efficiencies which would be achieved by harmonization in the fiscal, economic and monetary fields necessary to eliminate continuing unpredictable interruptions to the movement of goods and vehicles caused by frontier formalities, and if not, would the Commission organize or undertake a suitable assessment of this very important factor?

14. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-399/81)

Subject : Fish Farming

When does the Commission anticipate that it will be able to introduce a reference price system for salmon and trout and does the Commission intend to vary existing tariffs on imports of salmon from non-Member States ?

15. Question by Mrs EWING (H-407/81)

Subject: UN Conference on least-developed countries

To what extent did the UN Conference on the least-developed countries, held in Paris from 1 - 14 September 1981, adopt the Commission's proposals for the New Programme of Action contained in Commission document COM (81) 319 final; what aid are the Community as such and the East European States, respectively, to give to these countries and are the 22 ACP States among the least-developed countries satisfied with the conclusions of the Conference?

16.

Question by Mr HOWELL (H-438/81)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

Does the Commission expect to publish further proposals for a common fisheries policy and if so when?

17.

Question by Mr O'DONNELL (H-443/81)

Subject: Shannon Airport

The Irish Government is considering a major development plan for Shannon Airport. Would the Commission be willing to provide financial or other assistance towards the implementation of the new plan in view of its regional implications?

18.

Question by Mr DIANA (H-465/81)

Subject : Threat of retaliatory trade measures by the United States

Can the Commission confirm the press report that the United States Administration has sent a letter to the Commission threatening to take retaliatory trade measures if the Community introduces a tax on oils and fats and, if so, does it not feel that this constitutes serious interference in the affairs of the Community which should be firmly rebuffed?

19.

Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-473/81)

Subject: Discrimination against Scotch whisky by France

Is the Commission aware that the French Government is threatening to introduce legislation discriminating in favour of brandy and armagnac and does the Commission agree that such action would be in blatant disregard of the decisions of the Court?

20. Question by Mr BONACCINI (H-476/81)

Subject : The textile industry

In view of the disquieting decline in the production situation in various branches of the textile and clothing industry, can the Commission state what specific measures it intends to propose and adopt within its field of competence to remedy the situation?

21. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-479/81)

Subject: Second Consumer Action Programme

What measures have been taken and what bodies have been consulted in respect of the report on consumer representation vis-à-vis the public services referred to in Article 36 c of the Commission proposals in the Second Consumer Action Programme?

22. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-481/81)

Subject : Community position on public health

A conference sponsored by the Council of Europe on the subject 'A European model for the promotion of health: education and prevention' was held in Madrid in September. Twenty-one European health ministers, including the ministers of the Member States of the European Community, attended this conference.

How can the European Community in future avoid a situation where its Member States put forward their own individual viewpoints and instead work out a coordinated policy which will, among other things, make possible the adoption of a joint strategy on health, at least for the next decade?

23. Question by Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (H-482/81)

Subject : Single international number for national road traffic emergency services

At its meeting of 19 May 1981 in Oslo the Conference of Directors of the International Convention of Road Accidents Organization discussed the problem faced by national road traffic emergency services as a result of the increasing volume of international traffic. The conference appreciated the importance of standardizing the telephone numbers of the national emergency services which are all different at present and advocated the introduction of a single international emergency number.

Has the Commission considered this matter and is it planning to propose that the Member States introduce a single European emergency number?

24. Question by Sir David NICOLSON (H-485/81)

Subject: Tachographs

Bearing in mind vehicles are used in the building and construction industry to take materials from a central location to a site; these are short haul journeys; the drivers drive such vehicles for only a limited time and are then required to do other work; such vehicles are not in competition with professional lorries; the costings involved in both maintaining and operating tachographs in such vehicles is an unnecessary expense causing further problems to many small builders and leading to an increase in building costs including those of repair and maintenance; would the Commission be prepared to amend the regulations to exempt the use of tachographs for vehicles used solely on short haul journeys, if necessary limiting this exemption to the building and construction industry?

25. Question by Mr MAHER (H-493/81)

Subject : European rural policy

It is necessary to take into account all the possibilities for development in a local region and to use in the most effective way all the instruments i.e. Agricultural Policy, Regional Policy, Social Policy etc. so as to ensure the best results. Does the Commission intend to put forward proposals for a European rural policy?

26. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-496/81)

Subject: Functioning of The New Community Instrument

Could the Commission give a brief assessment of the functioning of the New Community Instrument for borrowing and lending operations to date? Which countries submitted the first applications? Were these applications accepted and what is the balance of loans still available?

27. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-499/81)

Subject: Non-discriminatory levy on all vegetable oils

Does the Commission intend finally to propose the introduction of a non-discriminatory levy on all Community or imported vegetable oils? What obstacles currently stand in the way of this proposal which must be introduced in the interests of fairness and effectiveness?

28. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-501/81)

Subject: Incompatibility of French nationalization measures with
the Treaty of Rome

Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome provides that the activities of the Community shall include: 'the abolition, as between Member States, of obstacles to freedom of movement for persons, services and capital'. This principle of the free movement of capital has been disregarded by the French Government in its decision to nationalize three companies: CII Honeywell Bull, ITT France and Roussel Uclaf - 'notable for their large foreign shareholdings' (Nationalization Bill tabled by Mr Pierre Mauroy on 23 September 1981).

In these circumstances does the Commission intend to ask the French Government to comply with Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome concerning the free movement of capital, and withdraw its plan to nationalize these three companies?

29. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-502/81)

Subject: Incompatibility of French nationalization measures
with the Treaty of Rome

Article 52 of the Treaty stipulates that 'restrictions on the freedom of establishment of nationals of a Member State in the territory of another Member State shall be abolished by progressive stages in the course of the transitional period. Such progressive abolition shall also apply to restrictions on the setting up of agencies, branches or subsidiaries by nationals of any Member State established in the territory of any Member State'. The French Government's decision to nationalize all credit institutions, with the exception of existing foreign banks is an evident violation of Article 52 of the Treaty and seems to suggest that the banking system is to be frozen. In these circumstances, has the Commission asked the French Government whether new foreign banks will be able to establish themselves in France?

30. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-506/81)

Subject: The European Social Fund and women over 25

In deciding on the new priorities for the further stimulation of job creation, as part of the revision of the ESF, has the Commission taken into account the effect these priorities might have on women over 25? Is the Commission able to give details yet?

31. Question by Mr de LIPKOWSKI (H-508/81)

Subject: Visit by the délegation of Japanese industrialists to the Commission

What conclusions do the representatives of the Commission consider should be drawn from the visit of the Japanese 'industrialists' delegation? Is it thought in Brussels that this visit is likely to bring progress in restoring the balance of trade relations between Europe and Japan?

32. Question by Mr de la MALENE (H-510/81)

Subject: French economic policy

Now that the French government has suddenly adopted rigorous measures affecting prices and public spending, whereas it had proposed an expansionist budget ten days earlier, can the Commission state whether its own recommendations are the cause of this abrupt U-turn by the French authorities?

33. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-512/81)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System

Does the Commission consider that the European Monetary System has worked well and that the recent monetary adjustments, notably concerning the French franc and the German mark, are likely to put an end to the speculation of the last few weeks?

34. Question by Mr VIE' (H-514/81)

Subject: Siting of power stations close to frontiers

Can the Commission state what are the current procedural arrangements for consultation on the siting of power stations close to frontiers between Member States? Will this procedure, which forms part of the new Community energy policy, have to be observed in the near future?

35. Question by Mr KIRK (H-517/81)

Subject: The European Community and Greenland

In the debate leading up to the referendum on Greenland's continued membership of the European Community, the Greenland regional government has drawn attention to the possibilities it would have negotiating an association agreement under Articles 131 and 132 of the EEC Treaty (OCT agreements) were the referendum to result in a decision to withdraw.

Does the Commission consider it realistic to imagine that such an agreement could be concluded between the Community and Greenland if the latter decided to withdraw? Could such an agreement contain provision for one-way development aid from the Community for projects in Greenland? Can the Commission confirm that an OCT agreement with Greenland would be conditional on continued Danish membership of the Community?

36. Question by Mr GEURTSSEN (H-520/81)

Subject: Summary of proposals from the Commission on which the European Parliament has delivered an opinion now pending before the Council (SEC(81) 1336 final)

Can the Commission state what measures it intends to take to reduce the almost endless list of proposals on which we have delivered an opinion and which are still being considered by the Council? Does it intend to withdraw these proposals, has it accepted compromise proposals that are at variance with Parliament's opinion, or do the Commission and Parliament just sit patiently until the Council is of a mind to reach a decision?¹

¹ See also Written Question to the Commission, by the same author No. 1265/80 in OJ C 329, 16.12.1980, p. 19.

37. Question by Mr FERNANDEZ (H-522/81)

Subject: Barley export refunds

The Commission has decided substantially to reduce the amount of barley export refunds, but only on barley sales to the USSR. This measure is at odds with a dynamic export policy and is likely to cause a bulge in end-of-season stocks. How can the Commission justify a decision of this kind? Does it intend to rescind the decision at an early date?

38. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-523/81)

Subject: Improvement of the situation of cattle breeders

The cattle breeding industry is going through a serious crisis. In some production schemes, many family stock-breeders are on the verge of bankruptcy. Is the Commission willing to maintain the intervention on whole carcasses until the end of the year, and to propose market support measures for store cattle?

39. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-528/81)

Subject: Nuclear Power Station costs

The well-known independent American energy consultant, Charles Romanoff, recently drew attention to the decreasing competitiveness of nuclear power. His calculations show that the capital cost of nuclear power stations has risen by 142% between 1970 and 1978, as against 66% for equivalent coal-fired power stations. By the end of the '80's it will almost be possible to build two coal-fired power stations for the price of one nuclear power station, while the price of nuclear-generated electricity will be at least 25% higher.

Does the Commission accept Mr Romanoff's calculations, and if so, what conclusions has it drawn?

40. Question by Lord DOURO (H-529/81)

Subject : Italian deposit requirements on imports

In their reply to a question by Mr IRMER (1), the Commission states that they were against the kind of measures such as the deposit on imports into Italy. What are the Commission's intentions now that the Italian Government have decided to extend the period during which these measures are in force until the end of February 1982?

41. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-531/81)

Subject : EC's Social security regulations

On 29th June 1981 I submitted to the President of the European Parliament a question to the Commission of the European Communities (2) relating to the EC's social security regulations, which deny entitlement to free or reduced cost health care in other EC countries to a person who came to reside in an EC country as a refugee but who can no longer be regarded as a refugee - for example an Austrian citizen who left Austria as a refugee.

My question asked whether the Commission would agree that it is unfair that a resident of an EC country should be denied entitlement to free or reduced cost health care when travelling on business in other EC countries because he no longer has refugee status, notwithstanding that he is paying all the appropriate taxes of his country of residence. My question further asked whether the Commission would make proposals to remedy this injustice.

In reply the Commission referred me to their reply to question no. 1980/80 which stated the factual position of which I was already aware.

Will the Commission now tell me whether they agree with my view that this position is monstrously unfair and will the Commission please explain to what extent the EEC Treaty lacks an adequate basis for remedying this injustice ?

(1) Debates of the European Parliament, No 273

(2) Written Question Nr.702/81 - O.J. no. C 267, 19.10.1981

42. Question by Mrs FUILLET (H-533/81)

Subject: Mutual recognition of diplomas

The Economic and Social Committee has approved the proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications of doctors, nurses responsible for general care, dentists and veterinary surgeons respectively.

Why has the Commission not extended the scope of this directive to cover all medical auxiliaries, particularly kinesitherapists and biological chemists ?

43. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-534/81)

Subject : Food Aid to Vietnam

In view of the Commission's stated policy that they do not use food aid as a political weapon, and in view of the need for aid following the typhoons in Vietnam which led to the devastation of towns and destruction of crops, will the Commission as an act of humanity resume the supply of food aid to the Vietnamese people?

44. Question by Mr RYAN (H-542/81)

Subject : Parliament's resolution of 7 May 1981 - Northern Ireland

What action has the Commission taken on foot of the Resolution of Parliament of 7 May last requesting Council to join with Parliament in expressing their readiness to offer any assistance that may ease the tensions in Northern Ireland and thereby assist in solving the problems there and if the Commission will take a continuing interest in assisting towards a solution ?

45. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-544/81)

Subject : Possible reduction in U.K. bread price

Does the Commission agree that the price of a loaf of bread in the United Kingdom could be reduced by 2-1/2 p if the levies on imported wheat were abolished and, if so, what steps will it take to remove these levies which only apply to a product (i.e. hard wheat) which cannot be produced in sufficient quantity in Europe to satisfy the british demand for this product?

46. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-546/81)

Subject : Aid to Vietnam

Will the Commission state what political considerations have prevented them from resuming aid to Vietnam and, in particular, whether it has been brought about by relations with ASEAN?

47. Question by Mr HUME (H-547/81)

Subject : Resolution of the European Parliament on Community regional policy and Northern Ireland

Is the Commission in a position to respond to the resolution (Doc. 1-517/79) of the European Parliament? (1)

48. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-550/81)

Subject: Motor car prices in the Community

Is the Commission aware of the difficulties being encountered by Community citizens in purchasing a motor vehicle wherever they wish in the Community, and wherever the price is most competitive, in particular that some car manufacturers will not supply right-hand drive vehicles to certain countries, thus depriving the Community citizen of his right to buy at the most competitive price, and if so, what is the Commission doing to ensure a genuine common market in motor vehicles?

(1) OJ No C 172 of 13.7.1981, p. 122

49. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-551/81)

Subject : Economic and social deprivation in the north of
Ireland

Does the Commission agree that there is very serious economic and social deprivation in areas of the north of Ireland and that this deprivation is one of the causes of violence, and will it consider taking the initiative in proposing a full-scale effort using the Community funds to improve the lot of the most deprived sections of the Irish population?

50. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-555/81)

Subject: Work of the Statistical Office of the European Communities
on the social situation of cultural workers

The resolution on the social situation of cultural workers (Doc. 1-558/80)¹ was adopted unanimously by the Assembly on 16 January 1981. In virtue of Article 122, second paragraph, of the EEC Treaty, the Assembly therefore invited the Commission to 'take immediately the steps needed to ensure that the Statistical Office can start drawing up as soon as possible the necessary statistics on the employment, remuneration and social security benefits of cultural workers in the countries of the Community'. If it is not able to give precise figures, could the Commission at least give an indication of how far the Statistical Office has progressed with its work at the present time?

51. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-559/81)

Subject : Delays in reimbursement

At the October 1981 session of Parliament Commissioner TUGENDHAT indicated that both Denmark and Ireland had failed to make application for reimbursement for funds available under Article 8.7.1 of the budget. Can the Commission state if this was because no investment had been undertaken or because of administrative delays in claiming the funds? Are there any other areas where funds remained unclaimed for similar reasons in the case of Ireland in 1981?

¹OJ No. C 28 of 9.2.1981

52. Question by Mr FRISCHMANN (H-561/81)

Subject: Current state of relations between the EEC and Turkey

Can the Commission specify how relations with Turkey have evolved since January 1981: credits requested or granted, meetings held in Turkey with Commission and Council experts, projects submitted by Turkey and financed by the Institutions? What are the Commission's views on the recent dissolution of Turkey's political parties? Does it not think that this calls for some change in the Community's relations with Turkey? Moreover, in the light of this and other events, what does it think of Parliament's recent resolution demanding suspension of the EEC-Turkey association arrangements so long as the military junta continues to flout democratic liberties in Turkey?

53. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-562/81)

Subject : Energy Investment subsequent to Cancun Summit Meeting

In view of the failure of the Mexico Cancun Summit to agree on the creation of an energy affiliate to the World Bank, will the Commission investigate the possibility of establishing an energy affiliate to the European Investment Bank, in order to cooperate with members of OPEC in the financing of Third World Energy projects?

54. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-563/81)

Subject: Commission policy concerning regional aid measures by the Member States

In view of reports of its alleged intention to ban all regional aid to a number of areas which have hitherto been assisted, will the Commission state whether it is in fact planning to introduce such a ban? Would it be prepared to renounce this intention, and in what way could it support national efforts to improve overall structures, without causing any distortions of competition?

55. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-565/81)

Subject : Farm-Mixing of Animal Feedstuffs

In proposing to amend directive 70/524/EEC to introduce controls for on-farm mixing of medicinal additives in animal feeding-stuffs, does the Commission have concrete evidence that such a directive would increase animal health rather than increased bureaucracy?

56. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-567/81)

Subject: Food supplies for Poland

With reference to a statement made by Mr Jean-Baptiste Doumeng to 'France-Soir' on 14 October in which he admitted that he was involved in supplying foodstuffs to Poland and emphasized that he had acted without any demise for profit as it was a matter of humanitarian aid, is the Commission at least prepared to state what percentage of the total quantity supplied was allocated to Interagra and, if it once again refuses to reply on grounds of secrecy, on what legal basis does it do so? Does the Commission not realize that secrecy is harmful to the cause in question and to Mr Doumeng in his humanitarian efforts?

57. Question by Miss BROOKES (H-568/81)

Subject : Special disability pensions

Will the Commission consider promoting a system of special disability pensions to be paid in all Member States to vaccine-damaged persons from the age of 16 - 18 and upwards and which Member States do in fact pay these pensions apart from Denmark?

58. Question by Mr BEAZLEY (H-571/81)

Subject : OPEC Oil price increases

What are the consequences for the Community's energy strategy of the increase in the price of oil agreed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries at its meeting 29 October 1981?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

59. Question by Mr DE FERRANTI (H-308/81)

Subject: Free trade and the EMS

Does the Council accept that free trade in Europe cannot be achieved without all Member States belonging to the EMS

60. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-390/81)

Subject: EEC-Japan trade

Does not the Council feel that the absence of any generalized agreement between the Ten and Japan makes bilateral agreements inevitable if the penetration rates of Japanese imports in each of the Member States are to be stabilized at their lowest level?

61. Question by Mrs EWING (H-466/81)

Subject: Fishery Negotiations with Spain

Will the President-in-Office state what progress has been made in fishery negotiations with Spain in connection with her accession to the EEC?

62. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-349/81)

Subject: EEC commitment to resolving the refugee problem

Does the Council consider that the European Community has clearly demonstrated its commitment to resolving the refugee problem, particularly in areas such as Africa where over half the world's refugee population is located?

63. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-396/81)

Subject : Agricultural production

Is the Council satisfied with the level of agricultural production with the European Community?

64. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-405/81)

Subject: Meetings of Ministers of the Community Member States outside regular Council meetings

Can the Council say what meetings have been held between the Ministers of the Community Member States - for example, 'Gymnich'-style conferences - outside Council meetings, and which of them have led to the formulation of policies afterwards officially adopted in a regular Council meeting?

65. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-461/81)

Subject : Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the EC

In mid-September the Ten's Foreign Ministers began initial discussions on reforming the Community. The French Minister stated that giving the construction of Europe a fresh impetus should have priority over all other considerations, notably budgetary and agricultural matters.

Can the Council therefore say what savings would be made in the budget as a result of the changes to the Community envisaged by France? Would these savings be sufficient to finance the Community's revival without exceeding the present level of Community budget revenue?

66. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-464/81)

Subject: New common policies and powers

The Communiqué of the Paris Summit meeting of December 1974 states that "The Heads of Government consider it necessary to increase the solidarity of the Nine by developing new common policies in areas to be decided on and granting new powers to the Institutions".

Which new common policies have been developed since then; what new powers have been granted to any institution, save for the 1975 Treaty on the Budget; when will the Council adopt new common policies on the basis of Commission proposals; and will the Council take full account of the Paris decision in considering the resolutions adopted by Parliament in July 1981?

67. Question by Mr BONACCINI (H-475/81)

Subject : The textile industry

In view of the disquieting decline in the production situation in various branches of the textile and clothing industry, can the Council state what specific measures it intends to propose and adopt within its field of competence to remedy the situation?

68. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-480/81)

Subject: Coal gasification and liquefaction

What steps is the Council taking to ensure continuity in the Community's research and development programme for coal gasification and liquefaction, in order that these techniques may make their contribution to reducing the Community's dependence on imported energy carriers as soon as possible?

69. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-491/81)

Subject: Compatibility of French nationalization measures
with the Treaty of Rome

Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome provides that the activities of the Community shall include: 'the abolition, as between Member States, of obstacles to freedom of movement for persons, services and capital'. This principle of the free movement of capital has been disregarded by the French Government in its decision to nationalize three companies: CII Honeywell Bull, ITT France and Roussel Uclaf - 'notable for their large foreign shareholdings' (Nationalization Bill tabled by Mr Pierre Mauroy on 23 September 1981).

In these circumstances does the Council intend to ask the French Government to comply with Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome concerning the free movement of capital, and withdraw its plan to nationalize these three companies?

70. Question by Mrs LENZ (H-492/81)

Subject: Refusal to recognize the European Parliament laissez passer

Is the Council aware that, at certain frontiers in the Community, the European Community laissez passer issued by the President of the European Parliament is not recognized as a valid frontier document? What action does the Council intend to take in order to ensure general recognition of the rights of the institutions of the European Community?

71. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-500/81)

Subject: Adaptation of the green currencies

Could the Council indicate what obstacles stand in the way of the adjustment of all green currencies affected by the recent adjustment of the European Monetary System? Is the Council not aware that the retention of positive or negative compensatory amounts constitutes a distortion of competition which has a harmful effect on the freedom of movement of agricultural products?

72. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-503/81)

Subject: Incompatibility of French nationalization measures with the Treaty of Rome

Article 52 of the Treaty stipulates that 'restrictions on the freedom of establishment of nationals of a Member State in the territory of another Member State shall be abolished by progressive stages in the course of the transitional period. Such progressive abolition shall also apply to restrictions on the setting up of agencies, branches or subsidiaries by nationals of any Member State established in the territory of any Member State'. The French Government's decision to nationalize all credit institutions, with the exception of existing foreign banks is an evident violation of Article 52 of the Treaty and seems to suggest that the banking system is to be frozen. In these circumstances, has the Council asked the French Government whether new foreign banks will be able to establish themselves in France?

73. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-507/81)

Subject: Improving the balance between men and women in responsible positions

At its meeting of 10 June 1981 the Council took note of the Commission's report on the state of progress in implementing Directive 76/207 of 1976. On that occasion it expressed the wish that encouragement be given to improving the balance between men and women at the different levels of responsibility, particularly in the Community's institutions. Can the Council say with what measures it proposes to give substance to this wish, specifying whether action is to be taken at Community or national level?

74. Question by Mr de LIPKOWSKI (H-509/81)

Subject: Free movement of capital

Since some Member States have been induced to take measures detrimental to the free movement of capital, does the Council not agree that this constitutes yet another obstacle to the free movement of capital, and that this objective, long enshrined in the Treaties, is unlikely to be achieved in the near future?

75. Question by Mr de la MALENE (H-511/81)

Subject: French economic policy

Now that the French government has suddenly adopted rigorous measures affecting prices and public spending, whereas it had proposed an expansionist budget ten days earlier, can the Council state whether its own recommendations are the cause of this abrupt U-turn by the French authorities?

76. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-513/81)

Subject: Healthy competition between financial and stock markets in the ten Member States

Does the Council consider that there is at present healthy competition between the financial and stock markets of the ten Member States of the Community? Are not the rules applied by some financial markets actually at variance with, or in contravention of, the Treaty?

77. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-515/81)

Subject: Supply of gas originating in non-Member States

Is the Council keeping abreast of the negotiations which are currently under way between certain Member States, particularly France, Italy and the United Kingdom, and the Algerian authorities on shipments of natural gas? Were these negotiations preceded by a Community procedure for an exchange of views and information on the terms of supply?

78. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-516/81)

Subject: Progress on fiscal harmonization

In view of the development of direct and indirect taxation in each of the Member States, is it possible for the Council to conclude that there has been any progress on fiscal harmonization at European level?

79. Question by Mr VIE (H-518/81)

Subject: Liability in respect of defective products

Has COREPER adopted a position on the report by the economic affairs working party on maximum liability, producer liability for material damages and development risk, has it considered the European Parliament's opinion on this matter and, in particular, does it intend to endorse paragraphs 1 and 1A thereof which, in certain circumstances, exempt producers from liability in respect of development risk?

80. Question By Mr GEURTSSEN (H-521/81)

Subject: Summary of proposals from the Commission on which the European Parliament has delivered an opinion now pending before the Council (SEC(81) 1336 final)

Has the Council taken note of the list of Commission proposals on which Parliament has delivered its opinion and which are pending before the Council, as set out in Commission document SEC(81) 1336 final? What does the Council propose to do to reduce this unacceptably long list to manageable proportions?¹

81. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-525/81)

Subject : Freedom of trade in motorcars

Will the Council confirm that no member government may prevent imports of motorcars purchased by its own citizens in other Member States at substantial savings because higher retail prices happen to prevail in its own domestic market?

¹In this connexion, see also my Written Question to the Commission, No. 1265/80 in OJ C 329, 16.12.1980, p.19

82. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-532/81)

Subject : Implementation of the Zagari Report - Seat of the
Institutions

Will the Council agree to act as interlocutors between the European Parliament and the Member States to resolve the Question of the definitive seat of the institutions of the European Community and will they initiate the conciliation procedure, called for in the Zagari Report, adopted by Parliament on July 7th, 1981 ?

83. Question by Mrs CLWYD (H-535/81)

Subject : Unemployed persons in Britain

Would the Council agree that the unemployed person in Britain is considerably poorer than his or her counterpart in most of Europe ?

84. Question by Mr HOPPER (H-537/81)

Subject : Harmonisation of Exise Duties on Alcoholic Drinks

The European Parliament is about to draw up an opinion on the Commission's proposal in this field (COM(79)261 final).

Will the Council transmit to Parliament the Commission's later, unpublished, revised proposals and the Council Presidency's compromise text ?

85. Question by Mr RYAN (H-541/81)

Subject : Parliament's resolution of 7 May 1981 - Northern Ireland

What action has the Council taken on foot of the Resolution of Parliament of 7 May last requesting Council to join with Parliament in expressing their readiness to offer any assistance that may ease the tensions in Northern Ireland and thereby assist in solving the problems there and if Council will take a continuing interest in assisting towards a solutoon ?

86. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-545/81)

Subject : Cyprus

Can the Council indicate the result of the discussions on Cyprus at the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council held on 26th and 27th October and can he also indicate the results of the meeting of the Association Council?

87. Question by Lord DOURO (H-549/81)

Subject: Spanish accession to the European Community

In view of the statement by Mrs Edith Cresson, a member of the French cabinet that the socialist group in the French parliament would vote against Spain's entry into the Common Market, is it still the official policy of the Council that Portugal and Spain will be welcomed into the Community on 1 January 1984?

88. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-553/81)

Subject: Nuclear power stations located at frontiers

Can the Council state whether the regulation, concerning the institution of a consultation procedure, proposed by the Commission, was discussed in the Council on Energy in November and whether the initial proposal was amended?

89. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-558/81)

Subject : Fall in agricultural incomes

In reply to oral Question H-449/81 (1) during the October session of Parliament, the Commission indicated in effect, that no further action would be taken to halt the serious decline in farmers incomes. Will the Council, being aware of the 50% drop in agricultural incomes in Ireland and the potentially more serious decline in output, request the Commission to bring forward measures to deal with this situation and comply with their responsibilities under Article 39 of the Treaty?

90. Question by Mr DENIS (H-560/81/rev.)

Subject: Current state of relations between the EEC and Turkey

In the light of the recent dissolution by the military junta of Turkey's political parties, the fact that the former Prime Minister Ecevit has become latest of a large number of democratic politicians and workers to be the victim of special courts and having regard to the recent resolution of the European Parliament demanding suspension of the EEC/Turkey association arrangements, can the Council specify how relations with Turkey have evolved since January 1981?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings of 14.10.1981

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

91. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-429/81)

Subject: The situation in the north of Ireland

Will the foreign ministers, in the framework of political coordination, undertake to examine, as a matter of concern to the Community as a whole, the tense situation in the north of Ireland and the possibility of seeking a lasting solution through mediation and negotiation in the Community framework?

92. Question by Miss QUINN (H-433/81)

Subject: Health problems experienced by EEC tourists in Rumania

Have the Ministers discussed the problems of tourists from EEC countries who have experienced sickness while on holiday in Rumania - particularly at the Black Sea resort of Mamaia - this year? If so, do they plan to make a joint approach to the Rumanian authorities with a view to ensuring that the causes of this problem (which has also occurred in previous years) are effectively tackled?

93. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-448/81)

Subject: Afghanistan

Do the Foreign Affairs Ministers consider that the proposals made to the USSR in July 1981 for settling the conflict in Afghanistan are still valid and are they still waiting for a reply or a further statement from Soviet diplomatic sources?

94. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-469/81)

Subject: Developments in political cooperation

Will the President-in-Office state what progress, if any, has been made to date, in setting up any formal structures in the area of political cooperation?

95. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-385/81)

Subject: Political cooperation

Can the foreign ministers say in what way political cooperation has been made more effective in the past few months as a result of the measures supposedly adopted to improve its operation?

96. Question by Mrs EWING (H-408/81)

Subject: Community opposition to apartheid

On what recent occasions and in what terms have the Member States declared their opposition to apartheid; and what is the voting record of the Nine or Ten in the United Nations since January 1979 on proposals for an economic boycott of South Africa in order to reinforce the opposition of the EEC to apartheid?

97. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-434/81)

Subject : Persecution in Ethiopia

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the persecution in Ethiopia of members of the Mekane Yesus church and members of other churches? Are they aware of the fact that church and political leaders in Ethiopia frequently "disappear" and are held without trial and without charges being made and can they say whether they will make representations to the Ethiopian government to have this torture and persecution ended?

98. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-440/81)

Subject : Military links with South Africa

Noting the continued strengthening of the South African military machine, will the Foreign Ministers support action taken to ensure the strict implementation, and strengthening, of UN Security Council Resolution 417 on arms supply to South Africa?

99. Question by Mrs BUCHAN (H-454/81)

Subject: Investment in South Africa

Would the ministers outline what measures have been taken or are planned, following the adoption of resolution of 35/206/Q by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 16 December 1980, to ensure the cessation of further investment in, and loans to, South Africa from Member States?

100. Question by Mr CABORN (H-458/81)

Subject: EEC Code of Conduct - military links with South Africa

Will the ministers consider extending the EEC code of conduct on South Africa to ensure that companies based within the EEC, or subsidiaries of companies based in the EEC, do not supply any equipment for use by the South African military security or police forces?

101. Question by Mr PENDERS (H-471/81)

Subject : The Middle East

Is there still some possibility of the Ten taking a political initiative on the Middle East in the foreseeable future?

102. Question by Mr MAHER (H-494/81)

Subject : Expenditure on security

Can the ministers inform the Parliament as to the total expenditure on security, both internal and external for each Member State of the E.E.C.?

103. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-498/81)

Subject: Saudi Arabia's initiative aimed at resolving the conflict in the Middle East

What is the Foreign Ministers' assessment of the initiative taken by Saudi Arabia with a view to reaching a settlement of the conflicts in the Middle East?

104. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-526/81)

Subject : Release of Mr Wallenberg from the USSR

Will the Foreign Ministers acting in political cooperation raise the question of the release of Mr Wallenberg with the authorities in the Soviet Union where he has been detained since the Second World War?

105. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-530/81)

Subject : Policy on Baltic States

Have the governments of the Ten Member States adopted a common policy in relation to the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in respect of the Soviet military occupation of the formerly neutral states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; and what is that policy ?

106. Question by Mr RYAN (H-540/81)

Subject : Neutral countries

Do the Ministers fully appreciate the desirability of the European Community not presenting to the rest of the world an image of the Community which could give the impression that it constitutes a military block which could menace others; if they consider that the objective of strengthening European solidarity would be helped by the accession of neutral countries such as Switzerland, Sweden and Austria to the Community and if so they will be especially careful not to be involved in decisions or actions which could embarrass neutral states whether they be at present, or may sometime in the future, be members of the Community ?

107. Question by Mr ADAM (H-556/81)

Subject: Release of Yuri Lituin

Will the foreign ministers, acting in political cooperation, intercede with the Soviet Government for the release of Yuri Lituin, a Ukrainian writer and translator, who is currently serving a three year sentence in a labour camp for his human rights activities?

108. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-557/81)

Subject: Relations with Israel and the PLO

Do not the Ministers consider that all the governments of the Ten should adopt a common approach to relations with the State of Israel on the one hand and with the PLO on the other?

